

# OCALA EVENING STAR

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY

BITTINGER & CARROLL, PROPRIETORS  
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Entered at Ocala, Fla., postoffice as second class matter.

PHONE 51

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(Domestic)	(Foreign)
One year, in advance.....\$5.00	One year, in advance.....\$8.00
Six months, in advance.....2.50	Six months, in advance.....4.25
Three months, in advance.....1.25	Three months, in advance.....2.25
One month, in advance......60	One month, in advance.....1.25

The way this Congress has spent money makes Tom Reed's billion dollar Congress look like a piker.

Germany will appeal the Appam case to the supreme court. Doesn't seem like a fair deal to take that ship away from the Germans.

The southern senators who are fighting the child labor bill are disgracing their states and furnishing arguments against their party.

The Germans estimate that the Allied drive on the Somme has cost the British and French 350,000 men. The Germans ought to hope for the drive to be kept up.

Clarence Woods, editor of the Eustis Lake Region, has returned from the Lake county motorcade over the Dixie highway to Chicago, and is again building velvet trails and growing natal hay.

The Lakeland Star says that the Menace has several million readers in the United States. This is one of the strongest proofs in existence of the sorrowful truth that there are several millions of blanked fools in the United States.

It's about time Ocala had a cleaning up week. The weeds are growing high all over town. Perhaps this accounts for the considerable increase in mosquitoes. It also accounts for the town looking like a man who is badly in need of a shave.

Kaiser William congratulates his soldiers on the fact that in two years of war their enemies had not been able to beat them. When the war began the kaiser expected his soldiers to beat their enemies in about two months, and now they have more enemies than ever.

Fasten the laurel wreath for public spirit firmly over the threshold of Lake county. Its three bond trustees, E. L. Ferran of Eustis, F. E. Edge of Groveland and R. F. E. Cooke of Leesburg, who have handled half a million dollars of the fund for good roads in the last two years, have refused to accept the \$5000 set aside for their very valuable services. Men of this class are so seldom as to be almost unique.

Catts now contends, in his fight against Knott in the courts, that the second choice vote is unconstitutional. Of course, his principal objection to them is that too many of them were cast for Knott—Lakeland Telegram.

If Catts had announced before the primary that he didn't intend to abide by the second choice votes, he would not have been allowed to be a candidate. Counting second choice votes was one of the rules of the primary, and if Catts didn't intend to observe the rules he was dishonest to go into it.

There lies before us a copy of the Ocala Mail and Express, dated May 13, 1897. It tells among other things of the contest in the Florida legislature for the election of an United States senator. There were six candidates—Chipley, Stockton, Rancey, Hocker, Burford and Palmer. The contest had been going on for weeks, with no end in sight. It was bitter and disgraceful, and yet some people want to do away with the primary. None of the candidates named were elected, the legislature finally compromising on S. R. Mallory of Pensacola. Messrs. Alfred Ayer and W. K. Zewadski represented Marion county in the '97 legislature. Dr. S. H. Blitch was state senator.

We read with interest a copy of the Mail and Express of May 16, 1897, which tells of the departure of the Ocala Rifles for the state encampment at Tallahassee. Capt. R. E. Davidson commanded the company and his lieutenants were S. R. Birdsey and C. V. Roberts. There were 44 men in the company, among them R. R. Carroll then and P. V. Leavengood now of the Star. About a year later the same company under the same captain left for Tampa, as volunteers in the Spanish-American war. There were 45 men from Ocala in the company, and they must have all been reasonably robust, for so far as the Star knows all but three are alive yet.

Everybody remembers the ridiculous A. B. C. conference at Niagara Falls over two years ago, when a bunch of delegates from the United States, Argentina, Brazil and Chili and two of the Mexican factions, met and handed out yards of useless talk for two or three weeks, and finally adjourned without doing anything of the slightest use, although the proceedings cost the United States a hundred thousand dollars or more. It seems like the farce is to be repeated at Old Point Comfort, Asbury Park or some other summer resort in a few days, when the commissioners from the United States and Mexico will meet to have a pow wow over matters that President Wilson should

have firmness of mind enough to decide for himself. The only person who won any credit in the conference at Niagara Falls was Carranza, who refused to be bullied or cajoled into it or being bound by anything it did. And Carranza will probably emerge with flying colors from the coming conference. Instructed by his German bosses, he is likely to get the best of Messrs. Wilson and Lansing in every move. The people of the United States will pay the expenses of the proceedings, the results of which, if any there are, will be to their disadvantage.

## AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

The question to be decided at the meeting to be held at the courthouse Monday morning, is whether or not to call for an election to decide on an issue of bonds for better roads for Marion county.

The Star has no idea at this time what decision the meeting will come to. We have heard of delegates being chosen in several precincts, and we presume that others will be represented. We are informed that Martel and Anthony are against bonds; that Dunnellon, Lowell and Fairfield are for them; but we have not received official intimation from these or any others.

The first thing to decide will be, of course, whether to ask for an election or not. If the question is decided in the negative, that will end it for this year. It will not end it for any long time, for we know all our people want good roads, and we believe that most of them are willing to bond for them. But a majority may prefer to wait a year or two, or even longer. In case even a large minority desires to wait, it would be best to accede to its wishes. There is no sort of an election in which the cheerful approval of a large majority is so necessary as in a bond election. We would prefer to see bonds beaten to seeing them win by a small margin, because you can't very well carry on any public improvement if a large proportion of the people feel that they are being unjustly taxed for it. Therefore, we do not think it would be wise for the meeting Monday to favor an election unless it is the belief of its members that a good majority, at least three in five, will vote for bonds.

We hope the meeting will consider carefully and decide wisely. We should not like to have the county put to the expense and irritation of an useless contest.

The Ocala Star says that Florida should be divided at the Suwannee river, that the peninsula state should be left with the name "Florida," and that the western division be called Chattahoochee, after its big river, all of which is quite foolish. What is needed is a North and South Florida, with the southern state beginning somewhere in the latitude of Gainesville, making a southern state with the sub-tropical features that give distinction to the lower peninsula—Miami Metropolis.

The Star is much more polite than the Metropolis, else it would retort that that paper was quite foolish. We respectfully submit that North Florida and South Florida would sound more like two sections of one state than two separate states. The name Florida was given to the peninsula by its discoverer, and was afterward arbitrarily attached to the entire province by some person over in Spain, who knew nothing, and probably cared less, for the natural characteristics of the territory. The tropical features that go with the name Florida are all in the peninsula, the rest of the state is like Southern and Middle Georgia. The Chattahoochee is one of America's great rivers; it is just as honorable and much more useful than the poetic Suwannee. On this question we are willing to leave it to the state press which is foolish, or the more foolish, the Star or its rather ill-mannered contemporary, the Miami Metropolis.

Subscriptions to The Star are payable in advance, and just why some people will insist that an account is not due until the end of the term for which bill is rendered is hard to understand. When you are presented or mailed a bill for subscription you may rest assured that it is either due or past due, so don't put off its payment on the grounds that "it isn't due." Pay up.

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## REMINISCENCE

III.

Editor Star: When I closed my last number the First Regiment, S. C. V., was on board the steamer DeKalb headed for James Island through the inland route. Our ultimate destination was Morris Island, which lies in the harbor a short distance beyond Fort Sumter from Charleston. We could not travel the direct way to Morris Island because it would have brought the steamer in close and direct range of the guns of Fort Sumter and as the battle had already opened there is no doubt that Major Anderson would have trained some of his guns at so tempting a target. Therefore to get to the place where it was deemed that our services might be most urgently needed and most effectively used we steamed by the inland route from Charleston to a point on James Island called Dill's Bluff, where we disembarked and marched across the island to Lagare's Point, from which place we were taken by boat to Morris Island and went into camp at or very near the place where the famous Battery Wagner was afterwards constructed. All day long while on our journey the booming of cannon and bursting of shells constantly vibrated the air as Forts Moultrie and Johnson and other batteries pounded away at Fort Sumter and that fort replying directing its shots at the various forts and batteries that were battering away at its walls. When we reached our camping place we had a clear and open view of all the forts engaged in the fight, as Morris Island is wooded. Fort Sumter was not then armed with any gun that could reach our camp and we could therefore watch the bombardment just as people now watch such scenes in the "movies." Of course none of us had ever witnessed such a scene before. It was a strange and interesting spectacle and you can well imagine that we viewed it with the deepest interest and excitement. All day long after we reached our destination we watched the forts and especially Sumter, to see the hits of the balls and shells and try to make out the effect they were having on the walls of the fort. As night came on the firing of the cannons ceased but at short intervals mortars, which had been trained in the day, threw shells which were intended to fall (and did) inside of Sumter. These were fuse shells and fired at a high elevation would describe a parabola through the air, drop into the fort and explode. When one was fired at night its course could easily be followed in its flight by the burning fuse as it turned over and over, winking its eye like a fire-fly, until it fell into the fort. Sometimes they would explode just as they got over the top of the fort and scatter its fragments down into the parade ground inside. At dawn of the day, the 15th of April, the forts all around began again their furious bombardment while Sumter opened up its reply distributing its shot and shell wherever it was thought they would be the most effective. During 24 hours 2500 shot and shell hit Sumter or fell inside of it, and during the day the barracks were set on fire and endangered the magazines. On the afternoon of the 15th the surrender of the fort was again demanded and terms were arranged by which the fort was surrendered on the 14th. By the terms of the surrender Major Anderson and his garrison were allowed to salute the U. S. flag and march out with honors of war and were transported to a steamer and sailed for New York. Our troops then took possession. It was found that the fort was considerably damaged, but there were 78 serviceable guns and to these afterwards quite a number were added. It is a little remarkable that no one was hurt on either side during the entire bombardment up to the time Major Anderson began the salute to his flag and then by the premature firing of a gun two or three of his men were seriously wounded. The damage done to the fort or its garrison was certainly not the cause which led Major Anderson to surrender. What moved him was doubtless the fact that his provisions were about exhausted and he knew that further supplies could not reach him and these conditions existing he saw that starvation would compel him to yield and that it was useless for him to take any further chances of having his men killed or wounded.

Fort Sumter! What a gallant and heroic history it has after it was taken possession of by the Confederate troops! The federal forces afterwards bombarded it from land and from sea, using the largest and most powerful guns then known in warfare. Hammered away and pounded at it for months and months until the fort was a mere pile of debris of broken bricks, sand and mortar sloping down to the water's edge, and not a cannon left mounted. They assaulted it time and again by troops conveyed in small boats to land at the foot of the ruin, but every attempt was met by the heroic and devoted garrison with rifle fire and hand grenades and signally repulsed with considerable loss to the assailants in killed, wounded and prisoners. The federalists very much desired to take Fort Sumter and Charleston and made continued and strenuous efforts to do so in every way they thought offered any chances of success, but failed at every point, and the forts and the city continued to be held and occupied by the Confederates until Sherman's march through South Carolina necessitated the evacuation of the city and its various defenses. This was on the 17th of February, 1865, and on April

14th, just four years from the time Maj. Anderson surrendered, the Union forces occupied the ruined pile of what had been Fort Sumter, and again raised, with imposing ceremonies the same flag (it is said) that Maj. Anderson hauled down when he surrendered to Gen. Beauregard.

But I have wandered away from my reminiscences and drifted into writing history, but not so far after all, as it was the custom during the long siege of Sumter to relieve the infantry garrison about every ten days or two weeks and during our stay in South Carolina the Edisto Rifles were called upon to serve two such periods in the fort. It was pretty hard and strenuous service, but it was a proud service and discharged willingly and gallantly. All of our water and rations had to be brought to us in the night-time and it was quite often a perilous time for the little steamer to get to us. The rations were cooked and when we got it, it was cold but it was gladly received and eagerly devoured by "boys" and many jolly jokes and witticisms passed around while we were at it. But this occurred later on in the progress of the war, as there were at the time Sumter was occupied by our troops, no Union troops anywhere on the coast of Carolina and no war vessels anywhere in Carolina waters. There was therefore, no immediate use for our regiment on Morris Island or elsewhere on our coast, and it was determined to move us to some place much more suitable for encampment and the training of the men in all the necessary duties of a soldier, though truth to tell, I do not think that a great many of our people had any idea at that time that the war would be of any great duration, so that our stay on Morris Island terminated on the 21st of May 61, when we were ordered to Orangeburg which place we reached on the morning of the 23rd and went into camp in an old field about a mile east of the railroad station.

Little did we think when we broke camp on Morris Island (which I have already said was at or very near the place where Battery Wagner was afterwards built) that at that same place later on in the war the Edisto Rifles passed through some of the most trying, bitter and horrifying experiences that we met with during the entire war, and when I say that I say a great deal. But I will not undertake to tell you about all that now, as this number has about reached a sufficient length, and if I begin to tell of the experiences at Battery Wagner I will be sure to go beyond the room the Star would graciously grant me for one issue.

I will rather go back now to our coming back to Orangeburg—the home of so many of the Edisto Rifles and men of some of the other companies. Of course, the news of our coming had preceded us, and there was a repetition of the scenes of our departure a little more than six weeks before, except the old Lord Rawdon cannon was not there to

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